

English IV

Lesson: 4/6/2020

The Danger of a Story-

Recognizing our own biases through stereotyping.

Learning Target(s):

- Draw conclusions, infer, and analyze text by citing relevant and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Follow a writing process to produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, style, and voice are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience; self-select and blend (when appropriate) previously learned narrative, expository, and argumentative writing techniques.

Bell Ringer

Brainstorm:

On a piece of paper, write three categories used at school to group people leaving space to write under each word. Ex. Nerd, jock.

Under each word, write at least 5 adjectives that describe each word.

Go back and read your responses. Did you have more negative or positive words associated with each category? A combination of both?

Chew on this:

Humans categorize people to help make sense of our world. However, when does this become stereotyping? Can individuals be classified this easily? What impact does stereotyping have on a society?

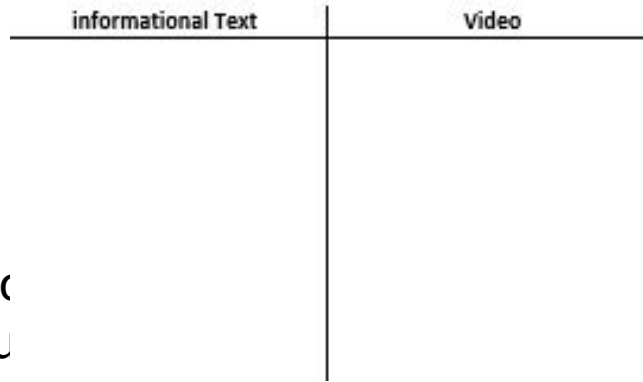
GUIDING QUESTIONS

Students should be able to answer the following questions and apply them to a constructed response.

- How does classifying people based on our own experiences lead to stereotyping?
- How do we recognize our biases in order to stop stereotyping?
- What is the impact of stereotyping and bias on a society?

Learn:

- On your paper, draw a t-chart like the one below:



- As you watch the video below, take notes on the t-chart about how it connects to our lives.

→ Read: [*The Danger of a Single Story*](#)

→ Watch: [*The danger of a single story | Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie*](#)

Practice:

- Use the information from your notes (refer back to the text and re-watch the video if needed) to answer the following prompts on your notebook paper:
 - How did Adichie allow a single story to construct her understanding of other people?

Practice Answer Key:

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer the question?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using 2 details and explanations from the article?

Sample Proficient Answer:

Adichie “felt enormous pity for Fide’s family,” because her mother revealed that his family was poor (Paragraph 11). However, when she goes to visit Fide’s family, “his mother showed us a beautifully patterned basket made of dyed raffia that his brother had made” (Paragraph 12). Adichie is surprised by this because she didn’t think of Fide’s family as anything other than poor. She reveals that “[t]heir poverty was my single story of them” (Paragraph 12). Additionally, students can discuss when Adichie visits Mexico. Through the United States’ media coverage of immigration, a single story was constructed about Mexicans, in which “immigration became synonymous with Mexicans” (Paragraph 23). This was due to the “endless stories of Mexicans as people who were fleeing the healthcare system, sneaking across the border, being arrested at the border, that sort of thing” (Paragraph 23). When Adichie visits Mexico, she realizes that she had allowed a single story to construct her understanding of Mexicans. When she realizes this, she feels “overwhelmed with shame. I realized that I had been so immersed in the media coverage of Mexicans that they had become one thing in my mind, the abject immigrant” (Paragraph 24).

Reflection:

After viewing and reading Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's story, think back to your initial categories of people and the words you associated with each group. Answer the following question on your sheet of paper.

- ➔ **When was a time that you falsely judged someone, or a group, through the lens of a single story? How were you wrong in your judgements and what made you realize this?**

If you want to learn more...Additional Resource:

Watch this [Ted Talk](#) on “The Science of Stereotypes” by Keith Jason and how we can break the patterns that cause stereotyping.

